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25X1

7. [] Called Courtney Pace, Administrative Assistant to Senator James O. Eastland (D., Miss.), to say I understood that Senator Eastland had given his proxy regarding the conference on the Ervin bill to Senator Ervin. Pace said he didn't know--that Eastland was in Mississippi, but that he would remind Eastland of our concern about the bill and asked me to remind him to do so Monday morning.

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8. [] Discussed our problem with the Ervin bill at considerable length with Mrs. Parker, Senator Hiram L. Fong's (R., Hawaii) Legislative Assistant. She said she had gone over with the Senator the material I left with her and said that speaking personally she was sympathetic with our request for a full exemption but felt the bill gave us enough limited exemptions to be tolerable.

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9. [] Called Bill Hildenbrand, Administrative Assistant to Minority Leader Hugh Scott, regarding the Ervin bill problem. He said Senator Scott had attended the conference on the 20th and was optimistic that the Ervin bill rider would be dropped at the last possible moment in the face of steadfast resistance to it among some of the House conferees. He said that all of the "liberals" are determined to pass the bill extending the life of the Civil Rights Commission, and in order to insure its passage would be willing to sacrifice the Ervin bill.

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10. [] Met with Mr. John Brady, House Foreign Affairs Committee staff, and gave him the text of the cablegram concerning regulation of opium cultivation in Laos which had been read to him by telephone in Bangkok during his recent trip to the Far East. I also gave him a page-size map of the triborder area of Burma, Thailand and Laos with the traditional poppy growing areas of the golden triangle set forth on the map.

11. [] met with Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, and Herbert Hoffman, House Judiciary Committee staff, to discuss action which might be taken in connection with the Ervin bill. See Memorandum for the Record.

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Per query:

Northern and western Laos are traditional poppy growing areas because of conducive climate and value of opium as cash crop to tribal peoples. Climatic conditions in the Vientiane area and in southern Laos with exception of Bolovens Plateau prohibit the cultivation of poppy. Although Bolovens Plateau area conducive for poppy cultivation, area populated by Lao who traditionally cultivate coffee and strawberries as lucrative cash crops. 25X1C

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In Vientiane and south Laos, however, generally opium was not cultivated for reasons of climate and tradition. While the government did not proscribe the cultivation and sale of opium in Vientiane and south Laos, it did attempt to control and monopolize the trade as a source of state revenue for financing the Lao Armed Forces. Thus in October 1963, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance General Phoumi Nosavan officially appointed General Ouan Rathikoun as representative of the Minister of National Security to take responsibility in negotiating and signing a contract with the Sakda Company for regulating the sale and traffic of opium in the kingdom as a monopoly. According to this agreement, the Sakda Company was by law made the sole agency responsible for regulating the sale of opium. The various government enforcement agencies were directed to arrest any other merchants dealing in the opium trade not, repeat

not, sanctioned by the Sakda Company. Thus while the sale of and trafficking in opium was not illegal per se, it was regulated by law and violaters subject to arrest and fine.

We have checked this matter with the Embassy in Vientiane which maintains similar views re this subject.



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25X1 12. [] Met with Mr. Jack Brady, House Foreign Affairs Committee staff, and gave him various items that had been requested in the meeting of 12 September 1972. Mr. Brady again expressed his appreciation for the assistance and cooperation he has received from the Agency both in the field and at Headquarters. He noted that he and Bob Boyer, of the Committee staff, have such a volume of notes from the trip that they are having a difficult time with the press of other work in trying to sort them out and get under way in the preparation of their classified report for the Chairman. He also noted that some of the items that had come under his hand during the afternoon were of a nature that he would expect that it would be most difficult to declassify the report without deleting major portions. See Memorandum for the Record.

13. (Unclassified - SMG) Mrs. Shirkey, House Foreign Affairs Committee staff, called and asked if the Agency would be interested in riding the jacket on a committee print, "The Faces of Africa: Diversity and Progress; Repression and Struggle," explaining that our order had to be placed with GPO tonight. I thanked Mrs. Shirkey for the information, and after a check had been made with OCI and AF Division, an order was placed for ten copies through Printing Services Division.

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Acting Legislative Counsel

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cc:
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Mr. Houston
Mr. Thuermer

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DDS
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